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Because deerskins continue to be an important source of war material, the War Production Board and the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior today renewed their appeal to deer hunters to turn all deer hides obtained this season into commercial channels for the manufacture of military equipment.

During the last year, deerhide leather has proved to be the only suitable material for such purposes as high altitude flying gloves. When other military requirements exceeded the supply of deerhides, trials of substitute leathers proved them to be unsatisfactory for these gloves.

The needs of the Army and of the Air Forces for deerskin gloves are still great. Although it is not possible at this time to forecast exactly the volume of actual requirements for 1945, any reduction in the supply of this important material in anticipation of favorable military developments might create a serious shortage, the two agencies said.

General Conservation Order M-310 (Hides, Skins and Leather) continues the channelling of all suitable deerskin material to military use. Should the war situation warrant any relaxation of these restrictions at some future time, all deerhides so released would find their way into uses important to the civilian economy. In view of the general shortage of leather, there is little danger of any economic waste of whatever deerhides may be produced and conserved against contingencies for military use.

Hunters were assured that the effort expended in salvaging deerskins from animals taken in compliance with State laws and regulations will be an important contribution to victory.

Accordingly, the best care should be taken in removing and preserving the skins. Instructions on the correct method of preparation and care of the skins will be furnished by State game commissions and conservation departments, who will also furnish lists of buyers of the raw deer hides.

Similar campaigns in the past 2 years have shown excellent results through the cooperation of hunters, dealers and tanners with the various authorities concerned. During the 1943-44 hunting season, hunters donated more than 238,000 deer and elk hides which were channelled into the leather trade for conversion into military use, according to data collected by the Fish and Wildlife Service. In the 1942-43 season, 162,427 hides were turned in by hunters for war use.

In renewing the program this year, the Quartermaster Corps, WPB, the United States Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, State game and conservation departments, sportsmen's organizations, individual hunters, hide dealers, and leather manufacturers will work together to make ~~all deerskins~~ available for the war effort.

WPB and the other interested Federal agencies expressed confidence that hunters and State game commissions will continue their cooperation.